COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Vol. V — 1112.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday,

7th August 1937.
23rd Karkadagam 1112.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. C. P. Lonappan, Shabdai S. Koder, T. S. Balarama Ayyar, P. Govinda Menon, P. Raman Menon, Popatlal Goverdhen Lalan, R. Viswanathan Chettiar, K. Achyuta Menon, and Dr. A. R. Menon were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Text-books—Schools—publishing of.

91. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what steps they have taken to print and publish text-books for the use in schools of the State;

(3) whether they have published any book so far; and if they have not, the reasons for the same?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—

(1) The V. V. Publishing House has been entrusted with the work of printing and publishing the Malayalam text-books for the Primary classes and Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar and Sons

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with the work of printing and publishing of Malayalam copy books for Primary classes.

(2) The text-books for classes I and II and all copy books in the revised form have been printed and published with effect from the re-opening of schools in 1112. The text-books for classes III and IV will be published in 1113.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May we know the terms under which these two companies, viz., the V. V. Publishing House and Sundara Iyer & Sons, were entrusted with the work of printing and publishing the Books?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—They were given a contract for 5 years. They are to supply these Books at the rate of 0—2—0 for the first class, 0—2—3 for the 2nd class, 0—2—9 for the 3rd class and 0—3—0 for the 4th class. They are to give a royalty of Rs. 4000/- to Government. It is with regard to the V. V. Publishing House. As regards Messrs. Sundara Iyer & Sons they are to supply copy books at the rate of Rs. 0—1—0 for all and they are to pay a royalty of Rs. 1500.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Who has written the manuscript of these books?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—In the case of text books the manuscripts were written by the V. V. Publishing House. They were purchased on the recommendation of the Text Book Committee.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know at what price they were purchased?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—They undertook to supply these books foregoing the price fixed by the Committee, which was Rs. 2,750/-.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Is there any difference in the price of books prevailing prior to this arrangement and subsequent to this arrangement?

Mr. President.—The price has been considerably reduced.

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—The original prices were 0—2—6, 3/-, 4/ and 5/- annas respectively. Against this we have fixed the above rates.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Did the Government enquire whether there were other publishers who were prepared to undertake the supply [illegible]

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Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—There was no distinct proposal as it was not practicable. Government wanted to introduce these books as early as possible. The first two books were introduced from this year. It was revised by the revising Committee. Definite particulars could not be supplied to others so that they could make definite proposals.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—My question is whether there has been any invitation for submitting proposals.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Yes, there were.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Was there any advertisement?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—All the leading publishers were asked to give quotations.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Am I to take it that there was no advertisement?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—There was no advertisement and there was no necessity for it because all the leading publishers were invited.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know who are the leading publishers whom the Government asked?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—A special Committee composed of Messrs. Kesavan Nair, Narayanan Nair and Ayyappan sat over these manuscripts and it was definitely decided that these manuscripts were the most acceptable and they definitely recommended that these may be purchased at a cost of Rs. 2750/-. The further question was whether these should be published in that form and whether Government should publish them. There was the further question of printing. An expert Committee revised these books and it was thought that the best feasible course would be to entrust the work of printing to the publishers themselves.

Mr. President.—In the matter of publication of these text books I myself looked into the matter and probably if I explain to the House what actually actuated the Government in arriving at this decision, the Government position will be clearly understood and the Hon'ble Members may at least understand what exactly was in our mind. We wanted to meet the demands of the Legislative Council and the public at large about the question of the Government itself undertaking the publication of

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text books as far as possible. What we did was we invited manuscripts of text books. These were examined by the Text Book Committee and the manuscripts in question were selected by the Committee. The Committee also recommended the amount of royalty to be paid to the publishers. So far as these 4 text books were concerned the Manuscripts of the V. V. Publishing House were selected by the Committee and they also recommended that a royalty of Rs. 2750 should be paid to them to purchase the outright copyright. They also recommended that we must get these books revised by a competent authority at the expense of the company which came to Rs. 450/-. Having bought this Government had to make up their mind what will be the best means of printing and publishing them. We thought that there was no use of inviting tenders and calling for quotations from everybody. It is quite possible that there may be persons who may send lower quotations but they may not have decent presses, equipments, blocks, etc. to do really good work. Therefore we made our own enquiries and first made a list of printers in the State who own the necessary equipments for printing these books in an efficient manner. All of them were asked to give quotations and we were not able to find out which was the most advantageous because we were not in a position to give further particulars regarding the kind of paper, the size, the type, blocks, etc. We thought that the scheme should be brought into force this year itself. Therefore we had to consider some alternative proposal. The V. V. Publishing House came forward with the proposal that if the printing and publishing were given to them they will be prepared not merely to forego the royalty but will meet the expenditure for revising the text books and will further pay royalty to Government and sell the books at the price fixed by the Government. Such being the offer we got the prices of these books as prevailing in Travancore and British Malabar and this price which is now fixed is the cheapest. We thought that this royalty of Rs. 4000 for selling these books was an equitable arrangement and so we finally accepted this. If we find that there is a cheaper way of doing this there is no objection to consider it next time.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—But for the next 5 years you are tied down. Particularly about the copy books you could have called for tenders. I want to know whether there were people to sell it at a cheaper rate than 1/- anna.

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—They were at liberty to offer their tenders. This was the only copy book approved by the text Book Committee.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—It was more to the interests of the students that this proposal was made with a view to see whether we cannot get it at a cheaper rate and was it not the duty of the Government even at the cost of asking outside publishers whether they cannot get better terms?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—We have got it at a cheap rate and this was found to be the best.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What made the Government to take this royalty instead of reducing the price to that extent?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—By foregoing that royalty there will be no appreciable decrease.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Is the printing of Text books in Travancore done by the Government or by private agencies?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—It is now being done by private agencies but gradually Government are taking it up.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Did the Government of Cochin ever try to find out what exactly will be the actual cost of a copy book if it is done in our Government Press. Are you not convinced that the paper cost and printing charges will be somewhere in the vicinity of 3 or 4 pies?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Of course the prices have been reduced to some extent. As regards the actual cost it has not been worked out but the committee compared the prices of books obtaining elsewhere. The prices of vernacular copy books in Travancore were compared and also those of the copy books of the Basel Mission. The price now fixed is just half. The price although it must be above the cost price was considered to be a fair one.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the Government will be pleased to very seriously consider the question of tackling to find out what the actual cost of printing copy books will be if it is done in our Government Press so that at least when the five years expire we will be able to get cheaper books?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government.)*—It will be considered then.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Can you do it for the next five years? You have already given a contract. The difficulty is that these booksellers are persons with other interests. They are the proprietors of the two dailies, the Deepam and the Gomathi. People look at that as rather suspicious. Will the Government be pleased to say whether they can do it themselves and see whether they cannot do it at a cheaper rate?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—It can be considered then.

92. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the classes in which copy books (English and Malayalam) are used ;

(2) the price of copy books used in various classes;

(3) whether the Government had made any attempt to print and supply them?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—

(1) Class 2 to Form III (inclusive).

(2) English copy book 0—1—6 each. Malayalam copy book (Form I to III) 0—1—6 each.

Do. (class 2 to 4) 0—1—0 each.

(3) The Malayalam copy books for classes 2 to 4 are supplied under the auspices of Government by giving a monopoly for the supply for 5 years and reducing the price. This was found to be the best course feasible.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—May I know the number of students approximately from classes 2 to 4?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—About 20 thousand.

93. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to give a list of new text-books prescribed this year showing the classes to which and the number of years for which they were prescribed and the price and the names of persons to whom the monopoly of supply is given?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to the notification dated

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1st May 1937, on pages 285—288 in Part II of the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 22nd May 1937.

94. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to give a list of text-books and copy books now used in schools, the monopoly for the supply of which is given to Messrs. V. Sundara Ayyar and Sons, the Deccan Publishing House and the V. V. Publishing Company?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—Malayalam Text-books for the primary classes to the V. V. Publishing Company. Malayalam copy books for primary classes to Messrs. V. Sundara Iyer and Sons. None to the Deccan Publishing House.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Am I to take it that these companies have no text books for the higher classes?

Mr. P. J. George *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—They may have.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The Hon'ble Member refers only to monopolies.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What I meant was the text books for which they had a monopoly for a particular number of years.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There is no question of monopoly there. The text books are prescribed for certain definite periods, one year or two years and the Hon'ble Member wants to know whether they are the publishers of any of the text books for other classes. I can answer that question with a little notice.

Mr. President.—Government misunderstood your question.

Liquor shops—reduction of.

95. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon** *(Chittur Rural).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what they have done this year and the last by way of furthering their avowed policy of gradual prohibition;

(2) how many they have reduced in the number of shops this year?

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